

SUPREME COURT CONFIRMATION FACTS

At least 17 Justices have been confirmed during a presidential election year. Throughout our country's history, the Senate has repeatedly confirmed Justices to the Supreme Court in the final year of a president's term – including times when the Presidency and the Senate were controlled by different parties. Some notable examples include:

- **Justice Kennedy:** In 1988, a Democratically-controlled Senate confirmed President Reagan's nominee – Justice Kennedy – by a vote of 97-0. Justice Kennedy was nominated on November 30, 1987 and confirmed on February 3, 1988.
- **Justice Murphy:** Justice Murphy was nominated on January 4, 1940 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and confirmed on January 16, 1940 by a voice vote by a Democratically-controlled Senate.
- **Justice Cardozo:** Justice Cardozo was nominated by President Hoover on February 15, 1932 and confirmed on February 24, 1932 by a voice vote by a Republican-controlled Senate.

- Justice Clarke: Justice Clarke was nominated by President Wilson on July 14, 1916 and confirmed on July 24, 1916 by a voice vote by a Democratically-controlled Senate.
- Justice Brandeis: Justice Brandeis was nominated by President Wilson on January 28, 1916 and confirmed on June 1, 1916 by a 47-22 margin in a Democratically-controlled Senate.
- Justice Pitney: Justice Pitney was nominated by President Taft on February 19, 1912 and confirmed on March 13, 1912 by a 50-26 margin in a Republican-controlled Senate.

According to the Congressional Research Service, a Supreme Court nomination takes approximately two months to fill from nomination to confirmation.

- Since 1975, the average time from formal nomination to confirmation has been 70 days.
- Since 1975, the average times for key steps in the nomination process have been:
 - Formal Nomination to Committee Hearing

- 42 days
 - First Hearing to Final Committee Action
 - 15 days
 - Committee Vote to Final Senate Action
 - 13 days
 - Formal Nomination to Final Senate Action
 - 70 days
- Since 1975, the longest wait from formal nomination to final Senate action was for the nomination of Robert H. Bork, for whom the process took 108 days.
- Since the Civil War, no Supreme Court vacancy has been left open for a year.